

FIELD ★ NOTES

South Central District

Summer 2006

FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Valued Employees and Stakeholders:



Edward E. Lopez

I'm sure most of you are aware of the sobering events in some of the eastern U.S. coal mines earlier this year. The tragic loss of 19 lives in only 3 incidents

has again brought national attention to the hazards that many miners cope with on a daily basis. We have seen the implementation of an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) that was published in the Federal Register on March 9 and the enactment of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006 that was signed into law on June 15. All of us - coal miners and metal/nonmetal miners alike - will be affected by the provisions of this new legislation. Please refer to our webpage at www.msha.gov and/or call your local MSHA office if you want more information about the MINER Act or any MSHA regulations.

In an attempt to ensure that the south central district is fully prepared to respond to an emergency situation, an underground emergency response FORUM was held in Dallas on April 4. This event was well attended and took us a giant leap forward in our readiness. I believe that we need more such events in the not too distant future. I look forward to seeing many of you then or as I as travel around the district. Until then, please continue with your drive to zero.

E/.

'ZERO' ACCOUNTS



Leslie Stogner (above) has worked in the mining industry for 56 years without a lost-time accident. He is employed by B & J Backhoe Service which operates two mines in Washington Parish, Louisiana.



The Unimin Plant at Roff, Oklahoma celebrated 20 years without a lost-time accident by hosting a celebratory dinner on May 20, 2006. Mine employees gathered for the above photo during an earlier visit by Brian Goepfert, field office supervisor in Norman, Oklahoma.

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

Safety Accomplishments

Fourteen plants were recent recipients of an annual safety award given by the Expanded Shale, Clay, and Slate Institute to lightweight production facilities that complete one year without a lost-time accident. Four TXI facilities were among the 14 recipients and included Boulder (Colorado), Clodine (Texas) Frazier Park (California), and Streetman (Texas).

Midwest Lime in Batesville, Arkansas recently celebrated 16 years without a lost-time accident at the mine.

The Portland Cement Association recently presented safety awards to several cement plants that have worked a period of time without a lost-time accident. South Central District plants that received one-year awards included Alamo Cement in San Antonio, Texas; Ash Grove Cement at Foreman, Arkansas; Capitol Aggregates in San Antonio, Texas; CEMEX at New Braunfels, Texas; Holcim at Clarksville, Missouri; and TXI at Midlothian, Texas. Lafarge North America at Sugar Creek, Missouri received a 5-year award in addition to a safety excellence award for working over one million man-hours without a lost-time accident.

Injury Classifications Most Frequently Reported (7 mos. FY-06 in SCD)

Handling Material	201 injuries
Slip or Fall of Person	123 injuries
Hand Tools	88 injuries
All Classifications	607 injuries

Joint Mine Health and Safety Conference Hot Springs, Arkansas March 20-23, 2006



Robert Friend, acting deputy assistant secretary of labor for MSHA, was the keynote speaker.



Allen Motes, quarry manager at the Cemex Odessa Plant, received a Sentinels of Safety certificate from District Manager Edward Lopez.



The planning committee was all smiles after the conclusion of the 2006 conference.

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

2006 Spring Thaw Meetings

Spring Thaw meetings were held throughout the district during February and March. This has traditionally been a time that many intermittent mines start operation for the season. For those, and other mines, the meetings provide an opportunity to start the year with a focus on safety and health at all operations.



Bill Andrews of Farley Electric provided an informative electrical presentation at the spring thaw session in Midlothian, Texas on March 15. Miners from all over north Texas were in attendance and enjoyed a luncheon together.



Clay Carter of Wayest Safety Inc. demonstrated fall arrest equipment during the spring thaw meeting in Ada, Oklahoma on February 28.



District Manager Edward Lopez recently visited Mosaic Potash at Carlsbad, New Mexico. In the above photo, Terry Morrow, Craig Hutchinson, and Al Lopez of Mosaic are flanked by Edward Lopez, district manager, and Rebecca Boam, New Mexico State mine inspector. They were standing in the underground shop, which was described as one of the cleanest ever seen.



Washington TRU Solutions employee Kevin McIlwee (above center) accepted a certificate of appreciation for safety from Edward Lopez, district manager, and Rebecca Boam, New Mexico State mine inspector. Washington TRU Solutions is the management and operating contractor for the Department of Energy at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant at Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Upcoming Federal Holidays

July 4
September 4

Independence Day
Labor Day

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

PARTNERING FOR SAFETY

District manager Edward Lopez signed three additional agreements with industry partners during the month of April. Each partnership between MSHA and an industry group is aimed at collectively working to prevent workplace accidents and injuries. The partnerships further strengthen both MSHA and the industry group as they continue to develop safe practices. The three industry groups were Mississippi Lime Company, Bloomsdale Excavating, and Buzzi Unicem USA.



The photo above was taken after signing an agreement between MSHA and Mississippi Lime at the Peerless Mine. Signatories to the agreement are in the front row and included Keith Espelien, vice-president of operations, Edward Lopez, and Rick Donovan, manager of health and safety.



Tom Drury, president, Edward Lopez, and Jeff Weiler, safety director, stood for this photo after signing a partnership agreement between MSHA and Bloomsdale Excavating. Bloomsdale is performing all the site preparation work at a new Holcim cement plant at St. Genevieve, Missouri. This was the first partnership between MSHA and an independent contractor.



Edward Lopez, Larry Hoffis, senior vice-president of operations, and Bob Sagmeister, plant manager, inked an agreement between MSHA and Buzzi Unicem's Maryneal Plant.

NATIONAL MINE RESCUE

The metal and nonmetal national mine rescue contest will be held at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino in Reno, Nevada July 11-13, 2006. Thirty-four mine rescue teams from around the nation have registered to participate in field competition, first aid, and bench contests for both the gas instrument and rescue apparatus.

Teams will engage in preliminary competitions on Tuesday, July 11 and Wednesday, July 12. The best scoring teams will enter the finals on Thursday, July 12 to determine the national champions. An awards banquet is planned for Thursday evening, when trophies will be given to the winners of each competition event. The trophies are bronze on wood designs provided by Original Creations of Helper, Utah.

DISTRICT MINE RESCUE NEWS

Southern Regional Mine Rescue Contest New Iberia, Louisiana May 3-5, 2006



The 3-man team from Morton Salt's Grand Saline Mine worked quickly to address a victim's simulated injuries during the first aid competition.



First aid contest victims Mike Hollis, an inspector from Rolla, Missouri, and Gerald Oubre, an inspector from Denham Springs, Louisiana, donned a little makeup for their roles.

FIRST PLACE BY CONTEST

Field	Doe Run
First Aid	WIPP Blue
Gas Instrument	Barrick (Carlos Cuevas)
BG-4	Karl Sauer (Morton Gold)
BG-174A	Ricky Martin (Doe Run)
Bio-Pak	Rod Christensen (Barrick)

Southwestern Regional Mine Rescue Contest Red River, New Mexico May 23-25, 2006



Brian Goepfert, supervisory mine safety and health inspector from Norman, Oklahoma, greeted Greg Sensibaugh, team captain of the WIPP silver team, at the fresh air base.



Andrew Tabor, mine safety and health inspector from Albuquerque, New Mexico, explained the field competition to his sons during a break from his officiating duties on the field.

FIRST PLACE BY CONTEST

Field	WIPP Blue
First Aid	WIPP Blue
Gas Instrument	Greg Sensibaugh (WIPP Silver)
BG-4	Joe Baca (WIPP Blue)